THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Development of tourist centres is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government extends financial assistance to State Governments for development of tourist centres on the basis of specific proposals received from them, availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities.

The Central Government have extended financial assistance for tourism projects in Mahabalipuram, Uthagamandalam, Courtallam, Kaniya Kumari, Madurai and Yercaud. The scheme for tourist cottages and cafeteria at Kodai Kanal has been prioritised for Central financial assistance during 1991-92.

Hike in Coal Prices

65. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to raise the prices of coal and if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) what is the total accumulated deficit at present of the Coal India Limited and what steps are being taken by Government to overcome it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) The last revision of price of coal produced by Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) based on the indices of June, 1988 and January, 1989 were made effective from 1-1-1989 and 24-1-1989 respectively.

Since then there has been substantial increase in the cost of production due to increase in the cost of inputs like wages on account of NCWA-IV, VDA, explosive, POL and rate of interest etc. Therefore, CIL and SCCL have submitted proposals to increase the price of coal produced by them. No decision has been taken by the Government so far.

(b) Accumulated losses suffered by Coal India Limited as on 31-3-1990 were of the order of Rs. 2245 crores.

Steps taken by the Government to reduce the losses include:

(a) Coal price updation w.e.f. 1-1-1989 in level with the cost of inputs;

(b) Setting target and assisting CIL to implement plans for opening new mines, upgrading technology and improving efficiency;

(c) Helping CIL to overcome constraints in availability of equipments and essential inputs to achieve better production;

(d) Delegation of powers to CIL through the instrument of Memorandum of Understanding.

(e) Assisting CIL in better sales realisation and recovery of outstanding dues.

Restoration of air service between New Delhi and Allahabad

66. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any air link for passengers between New Delhi—Allahabad—New Delhi;

(b) whether any such air link existed earlier; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be restored and; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Indian Airlines has temporarily suspended its service to Allahabad because of operational constraints.

Development of Allahabad as Tourist Centre

67. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to bring Allahabad on the tourist map of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the tourist spots proposed to be developed there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Central Government provides financial assistance to the State Governments in respect of specific proposals received from them. Ministry of Tourism has extended financial assistance for construction of a Yatri Niwas and renovation of Nehru Ghats for development of tourism at Allahabad.

Fall in the profits of ONGC

68. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC profits are likely to fall by Rs. 700 crores in 1990-91 as per the news item appearing in the 'Business Times' (Times of India) of the 15th June, 1991;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such a fall in profits has occurred though ONGC will not be paying corporate tax for 1990-91 as it did in 1989-90; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps Government propose to take so that the ONGC starts earning profits again as in the previous years.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) The profit after tax of ONGC in 1990-91 was Rs. 1048 crores against Rs. 1624 crores in 1989-90. This was mainly on account of higher exchange loss, cost of dry wells written off, depreciation|depletion and operational expenditure.

During the year 1990-91 ONGC had made a provision of Rs. 51 crores in its budget for the payment of Corporate Tax.

Crash of a Delhi Flying Club aircraft

69. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two seater Cessna 152 aircraft of the Delhi Flying Club crashed recently on the Safdarjung flyover in New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the outcome of the inquiry conducted into the mishap;

(c) what is the number of mishaps that took place from this airport during the period from 1989 to 1991 and the causes therefor;

(d) whether Government have considered the question regarding unsuitability of the flying club at the present site; and

(e) if so, what steps are contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.